

a [housing] conduit having an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said inlet opening defining an inflow direction and said outlet opening defining an outflow direction;

backflow prevention valve means disposed within said conduit [in a portion of said housing];

said conduit comprising at least first and second conduit[s] portions each having a first end and a second end, said first and second conduit[s] portions in a first relationship with said first ends of said first and second conduit[s] portions being substantially adjacent and collinear; and

first means, permitting movement of said inlet opening with respect to said outlet opening to any of an infinite number of positions to establish a preferred outflow direction, with respect to said inflow direction in a substantially leak-free manner.

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11. (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 10, wherein said backflow prevention valve means includes a first valve disposed in [a] said first portion of said [housing] conduit and a second valve disposed in [a] said second portion of said [housing] conduit.

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12. A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first means is located between said first portion of said housing and said second portion of said housing.

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13. (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first means comprise[s] said first and second conduit[s] portions coupled to each other in a substantially leak-free manner.

14.⁵ (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 13⁴, wherein said first and second conduit[s] portions are positioned end-to-end with respect to one another.

15.⁶ (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 13⁴, further comprising means for holding said first and second conduit[s] portions in said end-to-end position in any of [a plurality] an infinite number of rotated configurations with respect to each other through a rotation range of at least 180°.

16.⁷ (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 13⁴, further comprising means for sealing the end-to-end region of said first and second conduit[s] portions against leaking.

17. A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 13, wherein said means for sealing comprises ~~a~~ gasket.

18.⁸ (Amended) A backflow prevention valve comprising:
a housing having an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said inlet opening defining an inflow direction and said outlet opening defining an outflow direction;

backflow prevention valve means disposed within [in a portion of] said housing;

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~~housing~~ said housing comprising first and second [conduits] having portions, each having a first end and a second end, said first and second [conduits] housing portions in a first relationship with said first ends of said first and second [conduits] housing portions being substantially adjacent and collinear; and

a coupler [for] attached to said first and second housing portions and holding said first and second [conduits] housing portions in said first relationship in a substantially

leak-free manner with said second [conduit] housing portion being in any of [a plurality] ^{AD} on infinite number of rotational positions with respect to said first [conduit] housing portion.

18.⁹ (Amended) A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 18⁸ wherein said backflow prevention valve means includes a first valve disposed in [a] said first portion of said housing and a second valve disposed in [a] said second portion of said housing.

20.¹⁰ A backflow prevention valve, as claimed in claim 19⁹, wherein said first means is located between said first portion of said housing and said second portion of said housing.

Kindly delete claim 21.

22.¹⁵ (Amended) A method for adjusting flow directions in a backflow preventor assembly, comprising:
providing at least one backflow prevention valve;
encompassing said backflow prevention valve in a housing such that said valve automatically closes if flow through said housing drops below a predetermined value, said housing including an inlet opening defining an inlet flow direction, and an outlet opening defining an outlet flow direction;
moving at least a first portion of said housing with respect to a second portion of said housing, said first and second portions of said housing being in a non-screw-threaded relationship, to cause a change in said outlet flow direction with respect to said inlet flow direction to any of [a plurality] an infinite number of outlet flow directions in a substantially leak-free manner.

¹⁶ 23. A method, as claimed in claim ¹⁵ 22, wherein said step of moving comprises:
rotating said first portion with respect to said second portion to place said first and second portions in a desired position;
tightening a clamp to hold said first and second portions in said desired position in a substantially leak-free manner.

Kindly add the following new claims:

¹² 24. Apparatus, as claimed in claim ⁸ 18, wherein said first and second conduits in combination with said coupler comprises a rotatable sealed joint.

¹² 25. Apparatus, as claimed in claim ⁸ 18, wherein said infinite number of rotational positions lie substantially in a plane.

¹³ 26. Apparatus, as claimed in claim ⁸ 18, wherein at least one of said first and second conduit is a substantially L-shaped member.

¹⁴ 27. Apparatus, as claimed in claim ¹³ 26, wherein said L-shaped member provides an average change in streamflow direction of about 90°.

¹⁷ 28. A backflow prevention apparatus comprising:
a conduit having an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said inlet opening defining an inflow direction and said outlet opening defining an outflow direction;

at least one backflow prevention valve disposed within said conduit;

said conduit comprising a plurality of conduit portions including a first portion, each of said plurality of conduit portions having a first end and a second end, wherein said second

end of said first conduit comprises one of said inlet and outlet openings; and

a coupler, coupled to said first conduit portion and to at least one other of said plurality of conduit portions, said coupler holding said first conduit portion in any of an infinite number of positions with respect to said one other of said plurality of conduit portions, in a substantially leak-free manner.

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29. A backflow prevention apparatus comprising:
a conduit having an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said inlet opening defining an inflow direction and said outlet opening defining an outflow direction;

at least one backflow prevention valve disposed within said conduit;

said conduit comprising a plurality of conduit portions including a substantially L-shaped first portion and a substantially L-shaped second portion, each of said plurality of conduit portions having a first end and a second end, wherein said second end of said first conduit portion comprises said inlet opening and said second end of said second conduit portion comprises said outlet opening, wherein each of said L-shaped first portion and said L-shaped second portion provides a change in average streamflow direction of about 90° ; and

said first conduit portion being coupled to at least one other of said plurality of conduit portions by a rotatable sealed joint, rotatable through a range of at least 180°, said rotatable sealed joint holding said first conduit portion in any of an infinite number of positions with respect to said one other of said plurality of conduit portions, in a substantially leak-free manner, each of said infinite number of positions placing said second end of said first conduit portion in a different one of an infinite number of substantially coplanar locations.

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